



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
State Health Commissioner

Indiana State Department of Health

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Health Officers

FROM: Judy Monroe, MD
State Health Commissioner

DATE: May 14, 2009

RE: Dispensing Antivirals Near Expiration

To this point, the Indiana State Department of Health has distributed antivirals and other material to local health departments from the Strategic National Stockpile for pre-positioning purposes only.

A number of local health officers have expressed concerns about the uninsured and indigent and desire to be able to provide antivirals to individuals without the means to pay for a prescription. It has also been brought to our attention that the Tamiflu® suspension received from the stockpile has an expiration date of June 2009.

In order to address this concern while at the same time being good stewards of our emergency supplies and resources, the Indiana State Department of Health hereby authorizes the dispensing of the Tamiflu® suspension from the stockpile to uninsured/indigent individuals at the discretion of the local health officer.

Please note the following:

- This authorization to dispense applies **ONLY** to the Tamiflu® suspension expiring in June 2009. All other medication and supplies received from the stockpile shall remain securely stored.
- Not every local health department received the Tamiflu® suspension. Only 71 of the most populous Indiana jurisdictions received it as part of their SNS shipment. Those local health departments received only 1 case each.
- Dispensing of the Tamiflu® suspension requires compliance with the Emergency Use Authorization issued by the Food & Drug Administration as well as compliance with all state and local laws. Please see the Memorandum regarding "Federal and State Legal Requirements for Dispensing Antivirals" received from our office on May 1, 2009, for further information.

- The local health officer, as a licensed physician, is authorized to mix/compound and administer medication.
- The medication may NOT be dispensed beyond its expiration date. Care should be taken to ensure that medication is not dispensed beyond the relevant window of time in which the patient/recipient can complete the treatment regimen before expiration of the medication.

The Indiana State Department of Health views this as a unique learning opportunity and encourages local health departments to exercise and test their proposed dispensing scenarios. Given that all local health departments do not have Tamiflu® suspension at their disposal to dispense, it would also be a great opportunity to exercise resource sharing and/or the utilization of mutual aid agreements within your district and/or among neighboring health departments. We will follow up with local health departments in the near future to ascertain dispensing strategies utilized and lessons learned.